

**House File 2019 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2019

BY RUFF

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the use of headlamps and other lighting  
2 devices on vehicles at all times during inclement weather,  
3 and making a penalty applicable.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.384, subsection 1, Code 2016, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. Every motor vehicle upon a highway within the state, at  
4 any time from sunset to sunrise, and at ~~such other~~ all times  
5 ~~when conditions during inclement weather~~ such as fog, snow,  
6 sleet, or rain ~~provide insufficient lighting to render clearly~~  
7 ~~discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance~~  
8 ~~of five hundred feet ahead~~, shall display lighted headlamps as  
9 provided in section 321.415, subject to exceptions with respect  
10 to parked vehicles as hereinafter stated.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 Under current law, motor vehicles are required to display  
15 lighted headlamps when conditions such as fog, snow, sleet,  
16 or rain provide insufficient lighting to render clearly  
17 discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance  
18 of 500 feet ahead. This bill expands that provision to require  
19 motor vehicles to display lighted headlamps at all times during  
20 inclement weather such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain.

21 A violation of Code section 321.384 is punishable by a  
22 scheduled fine of \$30.

23 By operation of law, the bill also applies to headlights  
24 on electric personal assistive mobility devices (Code section  
25 321.235A), clearance and identification lights on semi trucks  
26 and trailers (Code section 321.392), lamps on projecting loads  
27 (Code section 321.394), lamps on parked vehicles (Code section  
28 321.395), lamps on bicycles (Code section 321.397), lamps on  
29 animal-drawn and other slow-moving vehicles (Code section  
30 321.398), the illumination of mechanical signal devices (Code  
31 section 321.405), the use of high and low composite beams (Code  
32 section 321.415), the use of alternate road-lighting equipment  
33 (Code section 321.418), and the use of two headlamps (Code  
34 section 321.419).

35 The bill does not affect the exemption from headlamp

1 requirements under Code section 456A.12 for official law  
2 enforcement vehicles being used in criminal investigations or  
3 while attempting to apprehend suspected criminals.